

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTWER 00294 140958Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /055 W  
-----141339Z 067722 /53  
R 140930Z APR 77  
FM AMCONSUL ANTWERP  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1680  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BE, PINT  
SUBJECT: FLANDERS GOES TO THE POLLS

REF: BRUSSELS 3551 AND 3552

1. THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 17, FLANDERS WILL VOTE FOR PARLIAMENT, AS WILL THE REST OF BELGIUM, BUT THE VOTING PATTERN IN THESE DUTCH-SPEAKING NORTHERN PROVINCES WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THE FLEMINGS SEE THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THIS SMALL COUNTRY DIFFERENTLY THAN DO THE WALLOONS AND THE BRUXELLOIS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEREAS THE CATHOLIC WORKERS AMONG THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WALLOONS OF THE SOUTH HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS BY MOVING CLOSER TO THE SOCIALISTS (WHO DOMINATE IN THEIR REGION) IN FLANDERS THE OPPOSITE HAS HAPPENED. THE FLEMISH VOTER, INCLUDING THE CATHOLIC WORKERS, HAVE BEEN DRAWING AWAY FROM THE SOCIALISTS BECAUSE OF THE SOCIALISTS' LESS-THAN-TOTAL ENTHUSIASM FOR FLEMISH SEPARATISM. IN FLANDERS THIS SUNDAY, ALL OBSERVERS AGREE, THE SOCIALISTS WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR THAT LUKEWARM DEDICATION TO FEDERALISM BY EXPERIENCING A FURTHER DROP IN THEIR POPULAR VOTE.

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2. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AND THE FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL HAVE A REGIONAL TRIUMPH ON SUNDAY WITH TINDEMANS PERHAPS TAKING OVER AS THE NUMBER ONE VOTE-GETTER IN THE COUNTRY FROM WILLY DE CLERCQ. REVITALISED BY SUNDAY'S MAJOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AT THE POLLS, TINDEMANS AND HIS PARTY WILL BE PROTECTED FOR A WHILE FROM MOST SNIPING BY THE WEAKENED, BUT STILL

SIGNIFICANT VOLKSUNIE. FURTHERMORE, TINDEMANS AND CO.  
WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE CONTINUED SUPPORT IN  
PARLIAMENT OF A SMALL BUT SOLID BLOC OF FLEMISH LIBERAL  
VOTES EVEN IF THAT MEANS THE FLEMISH LIBERALS MUST CLASH  
WITH THE WALLOON LIBERALS.

3. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS AT THE POLLS IN WALLONIA AND  
BRUSSELS NEXT SUNDAY, THEREFORE, TINDEMANS AND THE FLEMISH  
SOCIAL CHRISTIANS WILL EMERGE FROM THE VOTE STRONGER THAN  
EVER AND TOTALLY CONFIDENT THAT IT IS THEY WHO WILL DOMINATE  
THE NEXT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. HEIMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SOCIALISM, ELECTION RESULTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BRUSSELS 3551  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FLANDERS GOES TO THE POLLS  
**TAGS:** PINT, BE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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